

are hunters and shells enough to constitute any serious present threat to waterfowl. The real threat is not in the number of ducks which might be shot this autumn but from war-time changes in policy which might seriously affect ducks in a post-war world.

As this issue of the *Wilson Bulletin* appears, the regulations for the new season are on paper. We have confidence in those who plan them. We are content to count officialdom among our members, as indeed it is; yet if we as ornithologists fail to put forward sound, democratic opposition to the sportsman pressure groups, we are no less responsible for imprudent changes in policy than the groups which forced them through. It is our responsibility, individually and collectively, to keep informed on the waterfowl situation just as we keep up to-date on developments in nomenclature or life history study. And it is our obligation through the remaining years of war and after the war to take an active part in the planning and maintaining of sound waterfowl policy.—Albert Hochbaum.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Frederick N. Hamerstrom, Jr., *Chairman*

#### REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

The Auditing Committee has checked the accounts of Gustav Swanson, Treasurer of the Wilson Club for 1942, and the financial report published in *The Wilson Bulletin* for March, 1943, and hereby expresses its approval of the state of these accounts.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES F. WALKER

THOMAS H. LANGLOIS

August 12, 1943

#### AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

We are glad to report that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology has recently voted to affiliate with us, and we hope to have an account of their organization in a later issue.

An increasing demand for news of the affiliated societies has come from the Wilson Club membership. Suggestions and data should be sent to Dr. Gordon M. Meade of Rochester, New York, Chairman of the Committee on Affiliated Societies. We present below brief accounts of the history and aims of the Virginia Ornithological Society and the Inland Bird Banding Association.

THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY was founded in December, 1929. Because of transportation difficulties the annual meeting was not held in 1942, and it is doubtful, for the same reason, whether it can be held this year. Activities therefore, have centered around the publication of the mimeographed bulletin *The Raven*, and the Society has such an enthusiastic group of members that the cancellation of the annual meeting has had no serious effects. Local groups in such cities as Norfolk, Richmond, and Roanoke continue to get together for meetings and for field trips.

The officers of the Society are: President, A. O. English, Roanoke; Vice-president, William B. McIlwaine Jr., Petersburg; Secretary, Dr. Florence S. Hague, Sweet Briar; Treasurer, T. L. Engleby, Roanoke.

In spite of the fact that bird observation in Virginia goes back through three centuries, only certain small areas of the state have been thoroughly worked. There is a great deal still to be learned about distribution in Virginia—even of some of the more common birds—and the chief task which the Society of Ornithology has set itself is the gathering of data on which an accurate and comprehensive publication on the birds of Virginia can be based.—Florence S. Hague, Secretary.